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James M. Shannon
President and Chief Executive Officer

October 1, 2003

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), I would like to thank you for your leadership in proposing the Joseph Moakley Memorial Safe Cigarette Act. It will be a fitting tribute to the late Congressman Joe Moakley to see this legislation enacted.

Cigarettes are the leading cause of civilian fire deaths in the United States. These fires are responsible for over 800 civilian fire deaths each year. This represents over 25% of all civilian fire deaths in a given year. In 1999, there were 167,000 fire caused by smoking materials, an increase of 19% from the previous year. In addition to the enormous loss of human life, these fires resulted in direct property damage of \$560 million.

NFPA has been dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards for over 100 years. Legislation of this type has been a priority of our organization. We stood with Congressman Moakley to get to this point and we are poised to work lockstep with you to achieve passage of this legislation. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

James M. Shannon
President

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